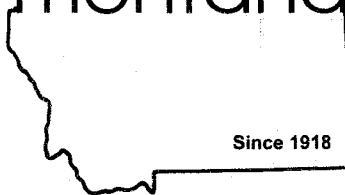


montana public health association

1118 Hobson • Butte, MT 59701



March 2, 2007

EXHIBIT 24
DATE 3-5-07
HB 808

The Honorable John Sinrud
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, MT 59620

RE: Opposition to HB 808 – Biennial funding for DPHHS

Dear Chairman Sinrud and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

The Montana Public Health Association (MPHA) opposes passage of HB 808, biennial funding for DPHHS, in its current form. Very recently, MPHA expressed its wholehearted support for HB 2 and the budget requests that are so important to the health, safety and well-being of Montanans. MPHA supports the Schweitzer Administration's budget originally introduced in HB 2. This bill (HB 2) is the lawful budget bill and respects the work of the legislative process, especially the public input.

Although HB 808 is seemingly well intentioned, MPHA respectfully opposes HB 808 as it under funds key elements of the Human Services budget as submitted by the Governor and jettisons the public testimony and involvement of the first half of the legislative session.

The Montana Public Health Association (MPHA) is a diverse membership of individuals and organizations advocating for optimal public health best practice standards for all Montanans. MPHA facilitates educational and professional growth opportunities, networking and mentoring, and collaborative relationships for members and partners. MPHA joins with other organizations on specific issues to strengthen the voice of public health and advance legislation to support the people of Montana.

Thank you for your consideration of MPHA's opposition to HB 808. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lora Wier, MPHA Past President, MPHA Advocacy Committee Chair, at (406) 466-2562 or health@3rivers.net, or visit the MPHA website at www.mtpha.com

Sincerely,

Terri Hocking, President

Cc: Rep. Edith Clark
Rep. Dan Villa